

Berrien Tax Valuation May Hit \$1 Billion

By BRANDON BROWN
Staff Writer

Berrien county's 1974 valuation for tax purposes may rise 10 per cent, to a grand total of perhaps \$1 billion, the county tax equalization director said.

County equalized valuation rose nearly 10 per cent in 1973, to a record total of \$900.9 million.

Fran Rawlinson said the county tax base may rise about 10 per cent again as result of "just over 3 per cent" in outright inflation

of property, around 5 per cent in new real and personal property and about a 1.7 per cent gain in personal property valuation.

The Donald C. Cook nuclear plant in Lake township is the stand-out in property value increases. Rawlinson estimated it will add some \$30 to \$40 million in real property to the county total, and an unstated sum in personal property, that is, transmission lines.

The Cook plant was the star last year, representing \$36 million of the \$80 million increase in total county valuation for 1973. The county valuation is important to county government, townships, schools, Intermediate school district and Lake Michigan college,

since all share in county property tax. County commissioners will be asked next month to approve 1974 county equalized valuation. Equalized valuation is half of fair market value and is set at 50 per cent of real value by law.

The approximate 1.7 per cent boost in personal property is the result of county equalization department audits of business and industrial records for machinery, equipment, furniture, fixtures and inventory.

It previously went unreported, either being unknown to local assessors or unreported by business and therefore estimated by

assessors, Rawlinson said.

But the tax equalization department has "established the ability to do ongoing audits on an annual basis" so this year's audit is hopefully the first of many, he said.

County equalization department studies have indicated a 3-plus per cent boost in property values from inflation, but some of the increase is due to the fact that many local assessors are using 1962 as the base year for valuations, according to Rawlinson.

The last massive county appraisal for tax purposes was held in 1962.

Food Sales Tax Removal Looking Like Mixed Blessing

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Senate Republican leaders were to huddle with Gov. William Milliken today to decide what to do about proposed elimination of the four per cent sales tax on food.

Senate Republicans are leaning away from putting the measure on the ballot without also stating explicitly that the tax cut would be replaced al-

most immediately with an income tax hike.

Milliken said Tuesday he personally would vote "no" if the food sales tax elimination came before voters as a constitutional amendment on the Nov. 4 general election ballot.

He said, however, he is not opposed to presenting the question to voters.

Milliken also said he does not

agree with repaying an estimated \$150 million in lost sales tax revenue by raising income taxes. Milliken said he prefers a proposal he has made to grant income tax credits to families for sales taxes they pay on food.

That plan would grant a maximum \$8 credit for persons in the \$5,000-and-under income bracket for sales taxes they pay on food. The credit would scale down to \$5 at the \$15,000 annual income level and to zero for income above that.

The tax credit plan would be abolished if the sales tax were eliminated on food. Both proposals were among several tax cut measures ready for Senate action.

Senate Republicans were to caucus this afternoon and possibly begin floor debate on the package of election-year tax cuts.

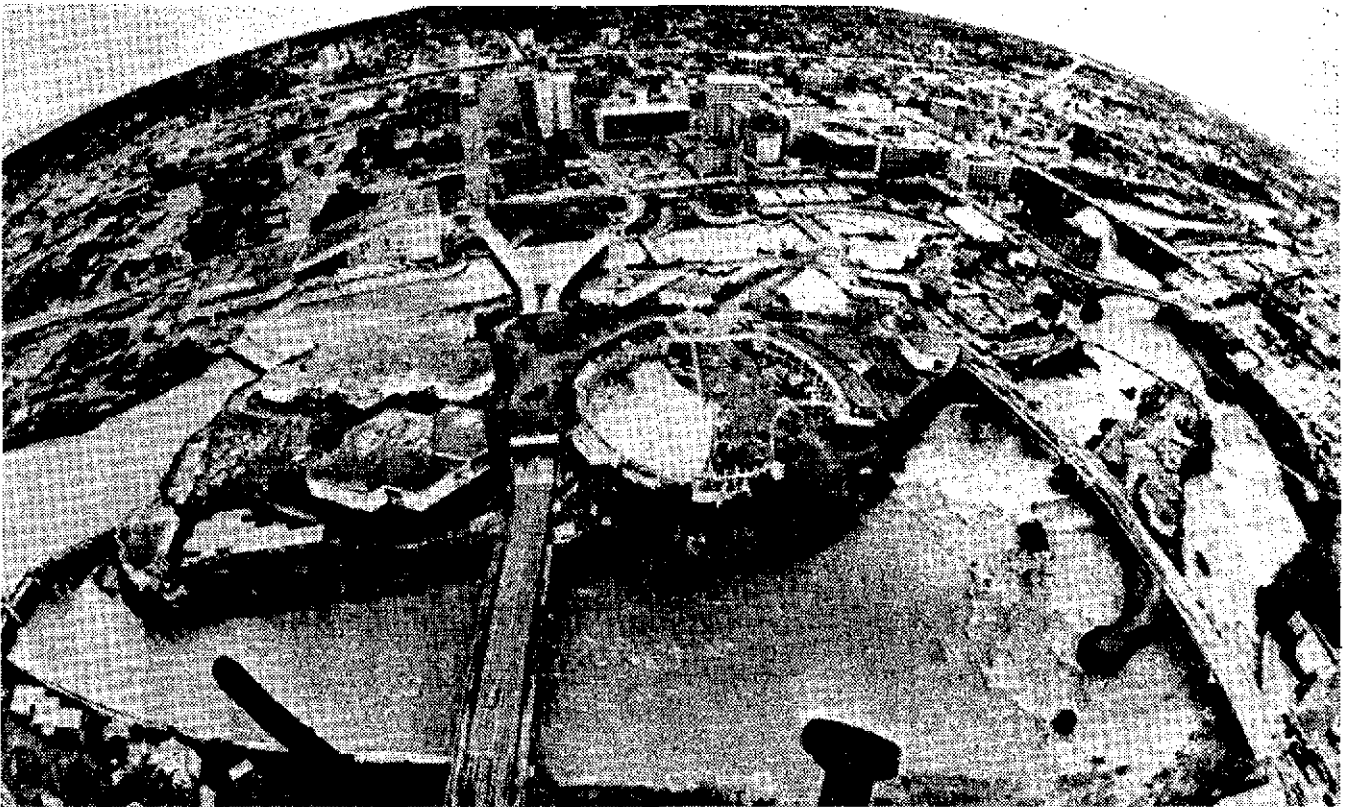
A Democrat—Sen. John Bowman of Roseville—successfully eliminated language in the Senate Taxation Committee that would spell out for voters that removing the sales tax on food would be a mixed blessing because it would mean an income tax hike of up to one-half of one per cent.

Senate Republican Leader Milton Zaagman of Grand Rapids said Tuesday he would like that language reinstated.

"Let's not play games with the people. Let's tell them what the alternative is," Zaagman said.

GOP Sens. Harry DeMaso of Battle Creek, taxation committee chairman, and Charles Zollar of Benton Harbor, appropriations committee chairman, also said they want

(See back page, sec. 1, col. 7)



FISHEYE VIEW OF EXPO '74: This is a fisheye view of Spokane, Washington's Havermale Island in the Spokane River. A while back it was a jumble of railroad trestles and tracks and old in-

dustrial buildings but now construction is nearly complete on the pavilions and other buildings for Expo '74 which opens in May. Downtown Spokane is in the background. (AP Wirephoto)

To Permit Birth Control Teaching Panel Kills Sex Education Bill

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — A controversial bill to permit the teaching of birth control in sex education classes apparently has died in a House committee.

The bill, which would have dropped the present ban on discussion of birth control, had passed the Senate but failed even though it was amended in favor of those opposed to sex education.

The House Education Committee failed by one vote, in a 6-5 tally, to send the bill to the House floor Tuesday. Seven votes were required from the

13-member committee.

One representative abstained, and Rep. George Montgomery, D-Detroit, who apparently opposes the bill anyway, was absent.

Reconsideration in the committee is unlikely, but a supporter of the bill may attempt to discharge it from committee on the floor of the House. That would take a two-thirds vote, however, and also is unlikely to succeed.

The committee vote came after several public hearings at which parents, "right-to-life" groups, religious representatives and other organizations vehemently opposed the bill. Mainly they argued that it would corrupt the morals of their children, subvert the authority of parents and church, and lead to increased sexual activity, promiscuity and venereal disease.

Supporters of the bill, which included Planned Parenthood, the YWCA, and several women's and professional groups, argued that the measure would provide

knowledge and protection for young people, and attacked the idea that ignorance of birth control measures would inhibit sexual activity.

Voting against reporting the bill out were Rep. Lucille McCollough, D-Deerborn, the committee chairman, and Reps. William Keith, D-Garden City, Matthew McNeely, D-Detroit, Thaddeus Stopczynski, D-Detroit and Thomas Brown, D-Westland.

In favor of reporting the bill were Reps. Clifford Smart, R-

Walled Lake, Jackie Vaughn III, D-Detroit, William Bryant, R-Grosse Pointe, Edgar Geerlings, R-Twin Lakes, John Mowat, R-Adrian, and Roy Spencer, R-Attica. Rep. Daisy Elliott, D-Detroit, abstained, although she expressed her opposition to the bill.

The vote to report failed even though the bill's backers, seeking more votes, agreed to report it without recommendation, which meant it would have gone "on the table," from which it would have had to be removed before consideration on the floor

was permitted.

The bill had been amended in committee—although the House had to approve the changes—to modify the entire Sex Education Act. Rather than all children being included in a class unless their parents objected, a parent would have had to request his child's attendance before he was admitted.

Other amendments increased the advisory role of parents and put stringent restrictions on what could be taught. But even these concessions were not enough to salvage the bill.



TAKES A BREATH: Fireman leans out window of smoke-filled attic while fighting fire in Chicago Monday. The fire damaged two buildings, and the resident of one of the buildings died of an apparent heart attack after fleeing the fire. (AP Wirephoto)

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Levies For Control Projects

House Approves Erosion Bill

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Local communities bordering the Great Lakes could levy special assessments to pay for large erosion control projects under a bill passed Tuesday by the Michigan House.

The measure, passed 95-2 and sent to the Senate, would permit local departments of public works to develop Great Lakes erosion control programs to be approved by the county board of commissioners and the Department of Natural Resources.

The community, upon approval, could levy a special assessment on those lands which benefit from the project for not less than 75 per cent of the total project cost. The local government would contract for the project's construction and pay up to 25 per cent of the cost.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Raymond Smit, R-Ann Arbor, is an attempt to deal with widespread Great Lakes erosion which officials say is impossible to halt without extensive and

uninterrupted shoreline protection at prohibitive cost.

The bill also allows only the benefiting property owners to be taxed, rather than the entire community.

The Senate, meanwhile, in a flurry of action on secondary bills, dealt with senior citizens, pistols and buses.

The Senate sent Gov. William Milliken a bill to give senior citizens 90 days to renew expired drivers licenses if they are out of the state when the license expires.

The bill, which won 20-0 approval, is aimed at easing hassles for persons over 60 who are wintering in Florida when their licenses run out, supporters of the measure said. The senior citizens would have to notify state officials beforehand that they plan to ask for an extension.

The secretary of state's office

normally allows senior citizens 60 days to renew their licenses now, Senate sources said.

On a 33-0 vote, the Senate also sent Milliken a bill to exempt buses from vehicle licensing requirements if they are used only as construction shanties.

The construction industry-backed bill would exempt only buses that are towed from job site to job site and not self-propelled, said Sen. James Fleming, R-Jackson, chairman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee.

Fleming said another bill passed by the Senate 28-0 and returned to the House could save the Detroit bus system \$50,000 a year for broken, battered-in windshields.

The bill, aimed at minimizing the damage caused by rock and brick-throwing vandals, would let buses use safety plastic windows instead of safety-glass

windows as now required. Safety-glass would still be required for front windshields.

Fleming said the plastic-coated windows would be more resistant to rocks and other hurled missiles than safety glass.

The Senate voted 25-1 to allow persons to carry pistols in automobiles—either in a trunk or in the passenger compartment of a car if there is no trunk—if the pistol is unloaded and in a wrapper without a concealed weapons permit.

The bill, which went to the House, would take effect March 31 to head off a mistaken amendment to a bill last year that would have prohibited such transporting of firearms as of this April 1, said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Oscar Bonwsma, R-Muskegon.

The bill, if signed into law, simply would maintain the status quo, Bonwsma said.

By GARRETT DeGRAFF
Paw Paw Bureau

PAW PAW — John Gilman was suspended yesterday as director of the Van Buren county drug abuse program.

Officials reported a meeting between Gilman and the program's controlling board has been called for 5 p.m. tonight to review the situation.

Gilman, 27, of Kalamazoo, acknowledged in a telephone interview yesterday that he was under fire for what he said were unfounded allegations of "unprofessional conduct in the discharge of counseling functions" as director.

He denied there is any basis for the allegations. "There is nothing to it," he said. "That's the truth."

The suspension was ordered yesterday morning by the Rev. William Payne of Paw Paw, acting chairman of the program's board.

Payne, when contacted last night, declined to describe the reasons for the suspension.

"The board is not ready to make any statements," Payne said.

He said he expected "tonight's meeting will resolve the issue one way or the other."

Paw Paw attorney Donald Halstead, who until recently served as chairman of the drug

abuse program's board, also would not relate the exact reasons for the suspension.

He indicated that in general terms the suspension was due to a "personnel question that is not completely resolved."

The situation is "still under investigation," Halstead stated.

The program's professional staff consists of Gilman and a part-time assistant, Sandra Jo Stunt, 26, of Paw Paw.

Services the program provides include counseling of drug users, the Manchester house drop-in center outside Paw Paw, and drug abuse education programs for adults and young people.

Gilman began as full-time director of the drug abuse program in July with an annual salary of \$11,000.

The program's budget for the fiscal year ending June 30 is about \$20,000, three-fourths of which is being provided by the state, with the remaining one-fourth due to be raised locally.

In the past several weeks, Gilman and other program officials have appeared before the county commission and several local government boards in eastern Van Buren county requesting contributions toward the \$5,000 local match needed.

Program officials have said the program is in danger of losing state funding for next year

unless pledges of at least \$5,000 are secured by June.

The drug abuse program is a sub-contracted agency of the county's Mental Health services.



JOHN GILMAN
Director suspended

Rummage Sale Fri. 9-4:30. 1330 Ventnor S. St. Joe. Adv

THE HERALD-PRESS

Editorial Page

W. J. Banyon, Editor and Publisher
Bert Lindenfeld, Managing EditorGovernment Tinkering
With The Energy Crisis

In spite of Watergate a hostile Congress cheered President Nixon's announcement of Project Independence two months ago.

It is broadly sketched plan to make the U.S. self sufficient in energy sources, fossil and nuclear, by 1980 or as a minimum no longer subject to the whimsies of the political leadership in foreign oil producing countries.

Though he spoke with quite obvious reference to the Arab potentates, Nixon did not overlook other oil centers such as Venezuela nor a list of 35 or more critical materials vital to American production but found only in commercially available quantities abroad. Nickel, manganese, industrial diamonds, iron, zinc, copper are merely a handful of minerals distinguishing the U.S. standard of living from that of Gambia or Haiti.

The Arab oil embargo, however, keeps the energy aspect of the total problem in the forefront.

Project Independence is a wide sweeping broom.

It contemplates a swapping of American grains for Russian natural gas in pressurized form; further working of U.S. oil and natural deposits which price-wise are not competitive to foreign production; accelerating Alaska's North Slope oil fields; greater reliance on coal; development of the oil shale deposits in the Rocky Mountain states; and if possible, improved trade relations with mineral-rich countries such as Canada which at least non-inimical to Uncle Sam.

The gap between promise and performance is not re-assuring.

The path has been cleared for the highly controverted pipeline to bring North Slope oil to the states and last week the Senate by eight votes failed to override Nixon's veto of a price rollback on domestic petroleum.

Otherwise the government's myriad arms seem bent on putting off Project Independence until the dreary prospect outlined in the Book of Revelations comes to pass.

The Federal Power Commission

continues to hold the wellhead price of natural gas to a level which discourages the risk capital necessary to bring in new wells and to expand the flow from existing ones.

The FPC adopted this stance some years ago when home heating was almost the sole market for natural gas. Today it has become a major reliance for artificial fertilizers, automobile tires and other plastics. These have been in critical supply for months and the situation is worsening.

Nonetheless, the FPC follows the politics of home heating as opposed to other basic requirements in the economy.

Though the Russian proposal is still moving back and forth on the diplomatic table, the idea is highly suspect in Congress and with the public, so much so that if a deal can be negotiated, it is a good question if the Administration could obtain acceptance for it.

Within Congress a legislative marble cake compounded of altruism and local lag rolling is on its way to the oven.

This is a bill to regulate strip mining so effectively as to make surface coal, an abundant resource, non-competitive with domestically drilled oil or deep mined coal.

The same limitations will apply to shale oil production.

Although the Atomic Energy Commission lately is paying more attention to energy needs and somewhat less to the environmentalists' scare tactics, nuclear power plants face an uphill battle to become a vitally required link in the energy chain.

Little wonder that with the government raising artificial barriers to a sensible goal, the ultimate consumer pays through the nose and unemployment resulting from production disruptions continues to rise.

The Wall Street Journal stated the case most succinctly the other day:

"To achieve the objectives of Project Independence, the government has to do only one thing: get out of the way."

Nixon's Retirement
Income At Stake, Too

Watergate indictments may be causing Dick and Pat Nixon to think about some things a lot more practical than the President's place in history.

If Mr. Nixon finishes out his term, he'll draw a \$60,000 annual pension for life. He'll also get a yearly allowance of \$96,000 for secretarial and office staff.

He loses both pension and allowance, however, if he's impeached and convicted.

Resignation, on the other hand, is different, at least according to this week's edition of U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine says that Mr. Nixon would retain pension and allowance if he were to resign or if he stepped down after impeachment but before conviction.

With the way the ball's been bouncing for the Nixons lately, resignation could become a tremendously compelling temptation.

It may be the one sure way Dick and Pat can assure that in their old age they won't return to the privation of their youth.

With the pension and allowances, they're assured of fairly luxuriant retirement. Without them, they could be poor.

At last count, most of the Nixon assets were reported tied up in one big home in California and another in Florida. Both are mortgaged; both cost a lot in taxes and upkeep.

Congressman Wilbur Mills thinks President Nixon is going to have to cough up big money, perhaps hundreds of thousands, repaying income tax deductions that Mills thinks will now be disallowed by IRS.

If Nixon is impeached, he very well may have to pay his own legal fees for his defense in the Senate. That could be another huge chunk of money.

Retirement may shortly look good. Wilbur Mills predicted this week that it will—within only a matter of weeks.

Frequent Question

What will happen when the world's food supplies are exhausted? This is a question scientists are asking more and more frequently as populations continue to gain, farm land continues to be eaten up by urban development and food production per capita continues to diminish.

Scientists are looking into the possibilities of eating bacteria, microorganisms and yeast to a greater extent, as unappetizing as such sources may seem. After all, man's appetite for the more delectable items is bound to reduce the supply of high-on-the-hog foods first.

This, according to those who see great futures for such repasts, is a natural path of the quest for food to take because the little beasts are much more efficient than their larger brethren in developing proteins and other human necessities.

Yeast is expected to develop into one of the more important foods of the future because of its amazing capacity for protein production. Such delicacies 300 million years in the future will have legitimate cause for moaning about the good old days.

Bone Of Contention



GLANCING BACKWARDS

TWO ELECTED
IN NEW BUFFALO
— 1 Year Ago —

Incumbent Rolland Oselka and newcomer Frank Magro were elected to New Buffalo city council in the annual municipal election yesterday. Oselka was the top vote getter for the two three-year terms with 444 votes. Magro polled 383 votes.

About one-half, 684, of the city's 1,307 registered voters cast ballots, with 82 voting absentee ballots.

OLD COMPANY
IS REMODELED
— 10 Years Ago —

The old Canteen company headquarters on Highland ave. has a new face and a new name. Now known as the Old Orchard Center, the building has been remodeled and decorated to

serve as a hall in which to hold dances, luncheons, banquets, private parties, wedding receptions and conventions.

The center, at 822 Highland, is now operated through L.E.P. Sales company in conjunction with the Canteen company which supplies a catering service for those parties requesting it. The remodeling of the old building led to an entrance which affords access to rest rooms, the large room for dancing or big parties and a smaller room which may be rented for parties of up to 35 people.

SALE BY GLASS
TO BE ISSUED
— 35 Years Ago —

Sale of intoxicating liquors by the glass will be an election issue in St. Joseph township April

3. A referendum on this subject has been ordered on the ballots of St. Joseph township. Sale of beer and wine is not included in the proposal.

Under the Michigan law permitting local option in the matter of selling liquor by the glass, any city or township can, if it desires, forbid sale of liquor by the glass. A hot fight on the liquor issue was in the making today. St. Joseph township includes the Berrien Hills Country club in Fair Plain, which has a bar for members. The Lake Shore village of Shoreham, center of the summer resort district south of the twin cities, also lies within the township.

PENSION IS NOTHING
— 45 Years Ago —

A pension means nothing to "Al" Myers, genial veteran of the Michigan Central, who a few days ago attained the retirement period by reason of his 47 years of continuous railroad service. The man who can call the first name of hundreds of residents along the Michigan Central division between St. Joseph, Niles and South Bend, is not going to retire. He will continue as yard conductor at Benton Harbor.

PLANT TREE
— 55 Years Ago —

Troop No. 2, St. Joseph Boy Scouts, asked permission from the city council to plant a tree in Lake Front park in honor of the memory of Theodore Roosevelt. The Scouts will supply the tree and take care of it after it is planted.

HOLD LECTURE
— 65 Years Ago —

The Civic Improvement association of St. Joseph has issued invitations for a lecture tomorrow night at the Whitcomb hotel parlors by professor C.B. Halligan, of Michigan Agricultural college. He will speak on civic improvement and landscape gardening. Miss Stella Winchester is chairman of the committee which succeeded in securing Professor Halligan.

BRIDGMAN FAN
PROTESTS LETTER

This letter is to the two gentlemen who wrote the letter to the coach of the Bridgman basketball team.

Thank you for showing your class to everyone in the surrounding communities. Do you two actually know what a coach or his players go through during a season? I doubt it.

I disagree with your statement that Bridgman was "humiliated" by L.M.C. As I see it both teams put forth 100

(See page 40, column 7)

Army Crackdown
Pays Dividends

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The U.S. Army finally decided to crack down on the theft of government property in Korea after it reached \$1.2 million in 1972. The campaign was named Project Prevent Asset Diversions and Losses Occurring in Korea — PADLOCK — and by the next year thefts were reported down to \$332,000.

Bruce Bissot

Watergate Is
A Distraction

WASHINGTON (NEA) — The thing most Americans dislike about Watergate now seems sure to happen — a steady distraction of President Nixon from such key issues as energy and the economy to a pre-occupation with efforts to save himself in the now accelerating struggle in Congress over his impeachment.

He is already desperately busy with his lawyers and other advisers, evidently looking for every conceivable way to thwart those in Congress who may seek to involve him directly in the Watergate coverup and related matters.

If he continues on this course, and he has plainly thrown down the challenge to Congress to try to come and get him, a great deal of time that otherwise could be spent on domestic and even his beloved foreign affairs, could be consumed in a variety of legal and other defensive tactics.

Yet there are increasing judgments in this capital that such efforts from this point on are likely to prove unsuccessful, no more than a rear-guard action, ultimately a gross waste of presidential time both from the voters' view and from the standpoint of Mr. Nixon's self-interest.

For the forces and factors arrayed against him in this battle are rising in strength almost daily. One reliable source estimates that, assuming the House decided to impeach, the number of senators who would vote for the President's conviction and removal from office may already be approaching 60. Two-thirds of the Senate — 67 members — are required for that verdict.

This same source argues that the hard reality of the new indictments, including three or four of the President's top circle, has got to be seen as a serious pushing factor on House impeachment proceedings. The other indictments now following on will only add to this impact, which alone in its total weight might be enough to drive the House to impeachment.

But the further spectacular propellant, not really wholly foreseen in its dimensions, is the grand jury's sealed presentation to Judge John Sirica. The best word is, of course, that it ties Mr. Nixon directly to the coverup and related activities by his indicted or "guilty-pleading" aides. There is no way to overstate the force such a document will exert as it details reach the eyes and ears of the impeachment drive's managers in the House, which is sure to happen one way or another.

The President's key helpers are charged with lying about what was said and done at important moments in the coverup. He is on open public record as endorsing the version of some of those events given out by close aide H.R. (Bob) Haldeman and now declared in the indictments to be false. The widespread assumption is that White House tapes on such crucial days as March 21, 1973, prove the falsity.

If the indictments are supportable in court by proofs, then a high proportion in Congress and an already distrustful public will surely conclude Mr. Nixon himself has lied and that he has a linkage to the conspiracy which could be deadly for him.

Marianne Means

Was It Really
Johnson's Idea?

WASHINGTON (KFS) — The late President Lyndon Johnson forgot to give his own Vice President the same tax-break advice which President Nixon insists led to that now-controversial deduction for his official papers.

Explaining how he came to take the \$576,000 tax write-off, the President has twice emphasized that it was all Johnson's idea.

But Sen. Hubert Humphrey, whom Johnson selected in 1964 as his running mate, told this columnist in an interview recently that Johnson had never passed along such solicitous financial counsel to him. "If he was busy helping Nixon, he sure forgot his old friend Humphrey," the Senator observed wryly.

However, during his first year as Vice President, Sen. Humphrey learned from his accountant that he could legitimately take an income tax deduction for the public donation of his official papers. Humphrey previously had given

the records of his terms as a Mayor and Senator to the Minnesota State Historical Society, but had taken no tax deduction for them.

On his accountant's advice, he claimed deductions for his Vice Presidential papers the four years he served. The papers, also given to the Minnesota society, are valued at \$309,475; Humphrey has claimed nearly two-thirds of that sum, or \$199,153, as tax deductions.

The President noted pointedly at his February press conference that Sen. Humphrey was among others "who made deductions such as I made in this particular instance." It was an unfortunate and unfair comparison.

Sen. Humphrey's papers were all in the possession of the Minnesota library at least one month before the law prohibiting such deductions went into effect July 25, 1969. By contrast, there is serious doubt that President Nixon actually made the full and necessary commitment for the donation of his papers before that legal deadline.

The question of the timing of Nixon's donation is now a major issue before the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation. Nixon's lawyer, Frank Demarco, Jr., reportedly has admitted the deed of the papers to the National Archives was not signed until April, 1970, nine months after the deadline, although it was postdated to March 29, 1969. Demarco also has reportedly testified there was an earlier deed, but it has been mysteriously misplaced.

The Nixon papers had arrived at the archives on March 27, but they were not accompanied at that time by the proper documents turning ownership over to the public. They were treated by the archives as "storage."

In addition to Johnson's failure to mention the tax break to Humphrey, there are two other curious things about Nixon's contention that he only did it because his predecessor told him to do so.

In the first place, Johnson himself did not take a tax deduction on his papers that last year in question, because the issue of eliminating it was being debated in Congress.

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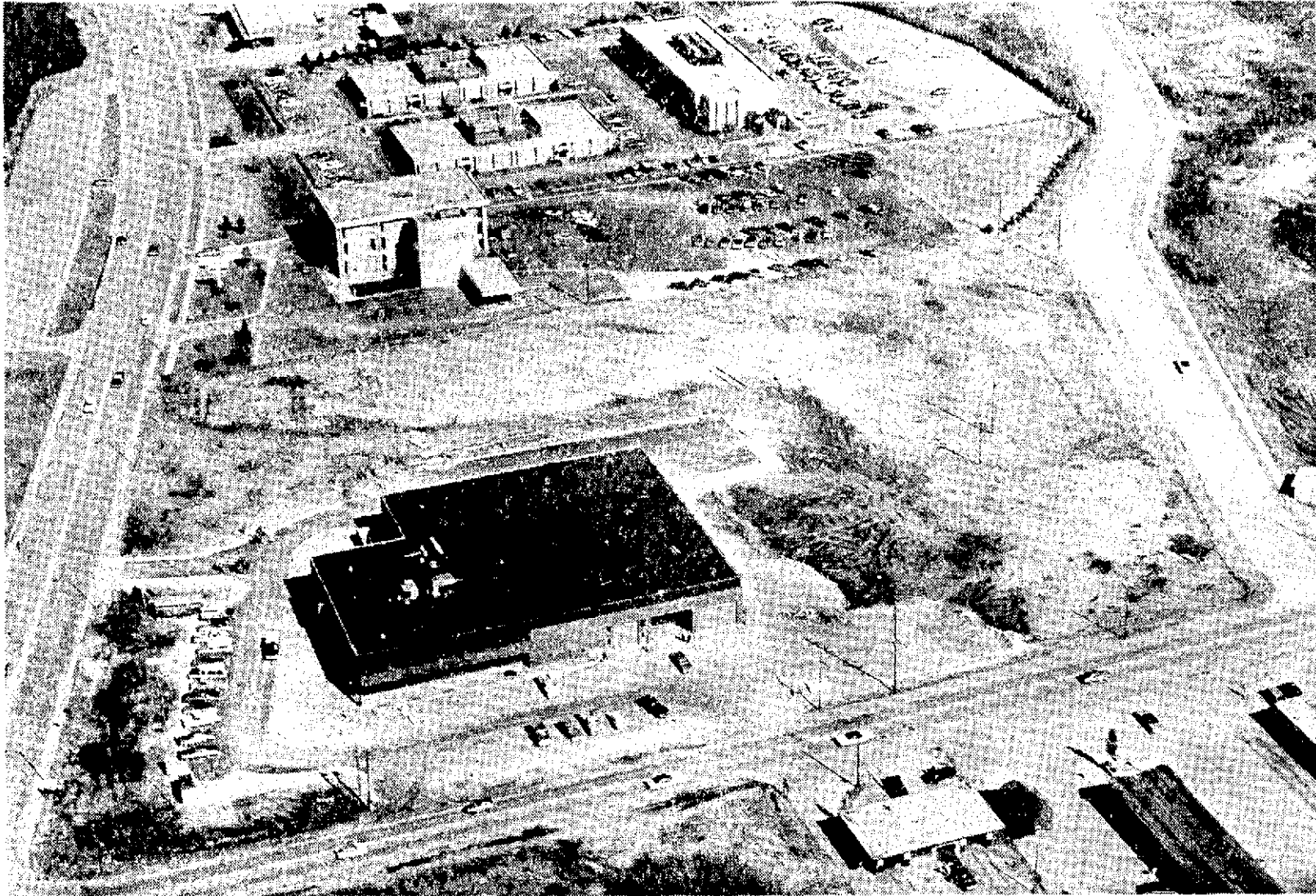


"I KNOW about their value, but sometimes I wish you
hadn't converted our savings into gold coins!"

THE HERALD-PRESS

Twin City
Highlights

ST. JOSEPH, MICH. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1974



OPEN NEXT MONTH: New headquarters for All-Phase Electric Co. in Benton Harbor should be open in early April, according to Ronald Kinney, All-Phase president. Kinney said fixture showroom will open to public April 8, and administrative offices

will move into building following weekend. Work on 37,000 square foot building began last August, and total cost will be about \$400,000. Kinney said minor work needs to be completed on portions of interior, and sidewalks and landscaping have yet to be ins-

talled. Building fronts on Empire avenue, with Riverview drive to left and new Eleventh street extension on right. All-Phase, founded in 1959, is presently located at 189 West Main street. (Adolph Hann aerial photo)

Sewer Construction Revives Memories

Hickory Creek Has Had Its Better Days

By BILL RUSH
Staff Writer

The controversial Hickory Creek sewer line, much in the news recently, has revived memories for a former Berrien county resident who used to hunt and fish in the creek more than 60 years ago.

Albert F. Hasse, now of Grand Rapids, was born on his father's farm on Cleveland avenue south of Hickory Creek in St. Joseph township in 1900. A remnant red barn and two-story house still stand on the right side of the road.

Hasse said Hickory Creek headlines brought back fond memories. "My late brother and I spent many happy hours in that creek bottom trapping muskrats and mink, hunting rabbits and

ducks and fishing from 1908 to 1915."

Hickory Creek floods in 1912, 1915, 1917 and 1920 are vividly recalled by Hasse. The flood in 1912 caused water to rush across Glenford road about two-feet deep, but high water in the "mammoth flood" of 1920 was the "worst my father had ever seen," he recalled.

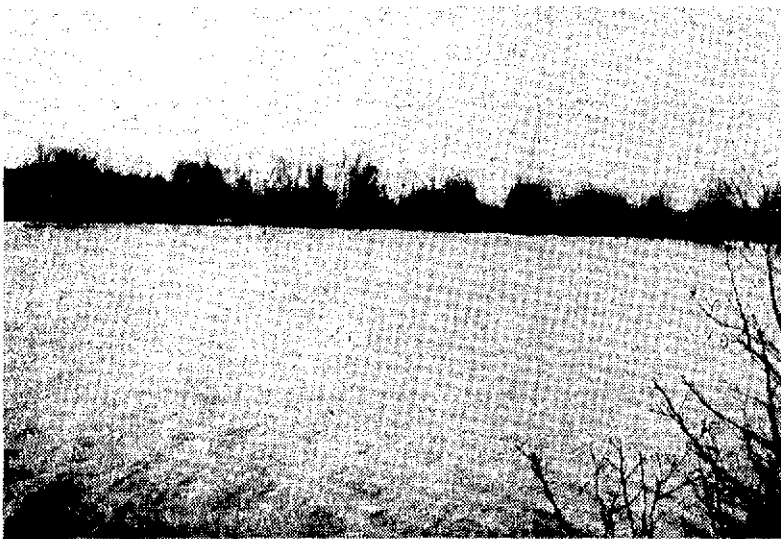
Hasse said the creek flooding in 1920 lasted almost two weeks. The water was 8-feet deep at Hickory Creek and Cleveland avenue and water was backed up to John Beers road.

During one of the floods, Hasse was unable to cross the roads on his way home from Brown school. A farmer with horse and wagon picked him up and took him across. During the winter when the creek froze, Hasse and his friends used to play hockey. One day he

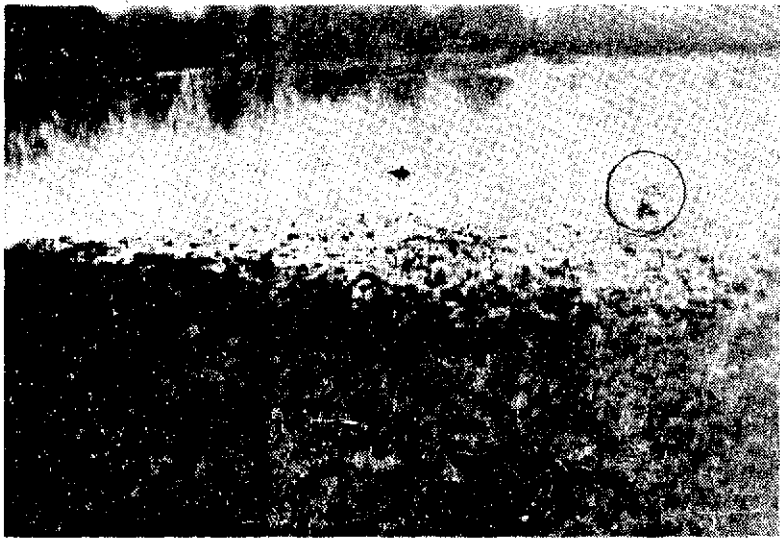
fell through the ice and was unable to feel any bottom, but was pulled out with a hockey club.

During the 1920's as a highway commissioner in St. Joseph township, Hasse was involved in bridge work, at Maiden Lane and Hickory Creek. He said he put in pilings and cement abutments which broke. This proved to him that the bottom on the west side of the creek was a quicksand bed.

Hasse's father, Paul, moved to St. Joseph township in 1875, coming from Germany. Hasse lived in the township most of his life until 1960 when he moved to Berrien Springs and then last November to Grand Rapids. He has children in Maryland, Idaho and Albion. He worked for electrical contractors up to his retirement in 1967.



HICKORY FLOODING: Pictures of Hickory Creek at Cleveland avenue show flooding in 1917 and 1920 recalled by Albert F. Hasse who used to hunt and



fish in the creek in the years before World War I. Hasse remembers five big floods in the creek during

a 30-year period. In the one picture is Hasse's dog (circled) which was chasing minnows.

Sixth LMC Police Class Graduating

Lake Michigan college will graduate its sixth class of police recruits from Michigan law enforcement agencies at ceremonies Friday, March 22.

Thirty-five new officers, representing 18 law enforcement departments across the state, will complete initial training required by state law before they begin their police careers.

Berrien Circuit Judge William White and Det. Sgt. Ken Taylor and Sgt. Cal Rosema, both of the Paw Paw state police post, will address the graduates at exercises in the Blue lecture hall on the LMC campus at 4 p.m.

Lt. Michael D. Devine, director of law enforcement training programs at LMC, said about half of the class members are from Berrien, Van Buren, Cass and Allegan counties. The remainder are from other parts of Michigan, with Port Huron

and Saginaw as some of the furthest points.

A graduation dinner is scheduled after the ceremonies, at St. Joseph Holiday Inn.

Members of the class, and the departments they belong to, are as follows:

Carol Lynn Adams, Kenneth Barts, James D. Burgess and George Hawblitzel, of Benton Harbor police; Renee Dew, James Kosterke and Carl Manning, of Oronoko Township police; John W. Gast, Bridgman police; Nick Stama, Michael Poole and Thomas R. Mize, of Eau Claire police;

Rodney Burch, St. Joseph police; Ronnie Creswell, Bangor police; Jimmy D. Curtis, Covert police; Donald T. Doppe and Thomas Schultz of Allegan County Sheriff's department; Michael Garrison and Roger C. Pompey, of Cass County Sheriff's department; Lawrence

Basso, Ontwa-Edwardsburg police;

Paul D. Wandt, Blissfield police; Benita Chapa and Steven Kocsis, of Buena Vista police;

Daniel Van Belzen, Coopersville police; Robert Buikema, Vin-

cent Trevino, Michael J. Hollurake and Dale Robinson, of Kent County Sheriff's depart-

ment; Thomas Zimmermann, Kentwood police; David Burlingame, Norton Shores police;

Richard Mallette and Reed Vaughn, Saginaw police;

Warren Flynn and Thomas Torrey, St. Clair County Sheriff's department; Gary Ebels and Daniel Rosema, Wyoming police.

BRANDON BROWN
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Edward Hutchinson on Tuesday announced \$1.7 million in new grants for three virtually complete sewer projects in Berrien county.

The grants, released by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, are: \$544,100 to Hickory creek interceptor sewer south of St. Joseph; \$934,400 to the Paw Paw lake-area sewage plant and interceptor; and \$268,200 for the City of Buchanan sewage plant expansion.

The first two grants go to the county public works department

and the third to the City of Buchanan.

The sums represent an increase, from 64 per cent up to 5 per cent, in the federal-state share of the projects, said Thomas Sinn, county development director.

The increase is long-awaited.

"This jumps the grant from 64 to 75 per cent on the part completed to date," he said. "The remaining grants... will be paid on completion and final audit of the projects."

Sinn said he expects similar grant hikes for plant expansions at Berrien Springs, Three Oaks and the Twin Cities.

In a sidelight to the Hickory creek sewer interceptor, Sinn

BH Fireman Earns Praise, Missouri Bacon

Benton Harbor Fire Capt. Roy Hearn's alert action at a car fire during a Florida vacation last month has won praise and respect for him and his entire department.

It also produced a slab of home cured bacon from Missouri that Hearn said will be shared by fire department personnel.

Hearn was credited by Louis W. Bahn of Cape Girardeau, Mo., with extinguishing a blaze in the Bahn auto. The car was a loss, but all clothes, a camera and other personal items inside the car were saved by Hearn's action.

Bahn later wrote Hearn and sent the bacon. Bahn, who owns the Sands motel at Cape Girardeau, also wrote this newspaper. His letter states:

"On Feb. 11, my wife and I drove into a visitors' center on I-75, just after we crossed into Florida.

"We went inside and were drinking free orange juice when someone called out, 'Whoever owns a four-door Chevy from Missouri, it's on fire.' I then ran to the front of the building where we were parked and found that a man from Benton Harbor had seen the fire or heard the call and had run into the center, picked up an extinguisher and put out the fire. The car was totaled out (by insurance firm), but all of our clothes, camera and miscellaneous (items) did not burn.

"We found that he is Capt. Hearn of the Benton Harbor fire department and was also on vacation.

"If this type of person represents the personnel of your fire department, you and your city should be grateful. This man took an unnecessary risk



CAPT. ROY HEARN

and would not take anything for his help, and we are very grateful to him."

Hearn, who received a letter and bacon last week, said he and his wife, Cora, were inside the welcome center, when the fire was announced. Hearn said he went outside and saw some garden hoses that didn't reach the car. An elderly man came out with a fire extinguisher and Hearn said he took it from the man and doused the blaze.

Hearn said the blaze began under the dashboard and spread upward into roof upholstery. Windows rolled down several inches enabled air to fan the flames, Hearn said, adding that his efforts were routine in putting out the blaze.

U.S. Is Pick Of Well-Traveled BH Marine

A Benton Harbor man with 17 years service as a Marine "on both sides of the globe" is anxiously awaiting his return to American on Easter Sunday.

Major Ron Merrihew, son of Mrs. Eleanor Merrihew, 527 Ottawa road, Benton Harbor, is about to complete 13 months service in Japan and the Philippines for his last overseas tour and will be reunited with his family in California on Easter Sunday.

Major Merrihew recently wrote his Mother: "As my year over here draws to a close, I get more and more anxious every day to get back to the good old USA in spite of fuel shortages, trucker strikes, shady politics, high food prices, etc. I've spent a lot of time on both sides of the globe, still, nothing can compare to American. If people only realized what a great thing they've got going for them there and tried harder to improve it and make it work better through diligent cooperation and understanding instead of trying to fight the system with constant complaints and greediness, it could be a lot better. To my way of thinking, there is no country in the world like the United States of America, and I will continue to defend it as I have always done in the past."

Major Merrihew was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for service during the Viet Nam conflict.



MAJOR RON MERRIHEW
Praises America

Major Merrihew, a Benton Harbor high school graduate, and his wife, the former Nancy Creed of Benton Harbor, make their home in Mission Viejo, Calif., and are the parents of two daughters, Denise, 13, and Linda, 11.

Employment Survey

The U.S. Census Bureau next week will take its monthly survey on employment and unemployment, with selected area households being visited by Louis Giegerich of South Haven, Census Bureau representative.

For Three Sewer Projects

Berrien Gets \$1.7 Million In U.S. Grants

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released a letter from the state department of natural resources saying it has learned of infiltration and deformation of pipe there and asking for notification before the interceptor is put to use "so that we may review... and have assurance that these problems have been completely resolved."

The letter came from the chief of DNR's municipal wastewater division, bureau of water management, and was signed by Sanitary Engineer Frederick T. Eyer.

The DNR reviews and approves sewage improvement plans, inspects the work and has joint power with the EPA to award state-federal grants. Sinn noted

Court Dismisses Heroin Charges

Charges of possession of heroin against two out-of-state men were dropped Monday when Berrien Fifth District Court Judge Leo Cook refused to issue warrants because evidence was illegally obtained.

According to Cook, charges were dropped against Wynonie Baylor, 19, and William H. Paige, 27, both of Milwaukee, Wis., because of illegal search and seizure of evidence.

The two were arrested after a state trooper from the Benton Harbor post stopped a car on I-94, in St. Joseph township, late Saturday morning. Troopers, without a search warrant or probable cause to believe a felony had occurred, allegedly searched the auto's glove compartment, according to the judge. There they reportedly found the substance, wrapped in foil.

Cook added that the men were not under arrest at the time of the search. When the substance was discovered, the two were booked on possession of heroin.

Baylor, the driver, was also ticketed for improper lane usage and not having an operator's license on his person. Monday in district court he pleaded guilty to the charges, and was sentenced to fine and costs of \$38. He and Paige were then released.

Oronoko Sets April 10 Hearing

BERRIEN SPRINGS — Oronoko township board last night set Wednesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. for a public hearing on a condominium development being proposed by Mr. and Mrs. Myron Hecht, Kephart lane.

The Hechts propose to construct a 32-unit condominium on 80 acres they own along the St. Joseph river.

Supervisor Robert Feather said plans for the development are available for public inspection at the township hall.

In other business, the township board approved rezoning of two parcels, on recommendation of the township and county planning commissions.

A 40-acre parcel owned by Clayton Poole, south of Andrews university airport on Shawnee road, was rezoned from residential to commercial. A building housing Poole Con-

struction company already is located on the property.

The second rezoning was from R-A1 to R-2 residential for the subdivisions of Country Acres and Country Acres No. 2, located near Snow and Garr roads and owned by Dr. Wilson Trickett, 105 Maplewood drive.

The board approved issuance of a permit to John G. Yerington for operation of a gravel pit, located near Snow and Mt. Tabor roads, after posting of a \$2,000 performance bond. The board acted after Harry Fetka, construction superintendent for Yerington, assured the board that conditions cited earlier by the township zoning board had been corrected.

Treasurer Robert King reported - \$1,069,000, or more than 95 per cent of the \$1,119,000 township tax roll had been collected.



TAKING SHAPE: Multi-million dollar corporate headquarters building of Clark Equipment company in Buchanan begins to assume shape as construction proceeds towards mid-summer completion

date. The 87,000 square-foot building will be composed of main building area and three service towers and is located off Red Bud trail, north of Bluff street. (Aerial photo by Adolph Hann)

Covers 2-Year Period

Van Buren Deputies Get 20% Pay Hike

By GARRETT DeGRAFF
Paw Paw Bureau

PAW PAW — Van Buren sheriff's deputies have won pay raises of more than 20 percent over a two-year period under terms of an arbitrated settlement announced yesterday.

Terms of the pact were devised in an arbitration session Monday in Kalamazoo and released yesterday by both the county commission and union representatives for the deputies.

Starting pay under the pact is boosted from \$7,600 to \$9,000 in 1974 and \$10,000 in 1975. The agreement covers a two-year period and is retroactive to Jan. 1.

The pact provides a top salary of \$9,500 for deputies with with five year's experience in 1974, and a top salary of \$10,500 in 1975 for any deputy with three or more years with the department.

Covered under the pact are the department's 12 deputies, members of the Teamsters union law enforcement division.

Union and county commission sources also reported the agreement provides the county shall pay full cost of full-family medical insurance for the deputies.

Paul Gully, a Teamsters union representative said the insurance would cost the county about \$365 per year per deputy.

Previously, insurance was provided by the county for the deputy alone, and not his family, Gully stated.

Donald Hanson, chairman of the county commission, said the pact provides that longevity bonuses will not be provided for deputies. The commission approved the bonuses, which go as high as \$400, for all county employees last fall.

Hanson noted that with the agreement with the deputies, the county commission can now proceed with negotiations with the sheriff's department's seven command officers, represented by the Fraternal Order of Police.

Hanson said the commission would like to keep the wage and

fringe benefits for the command officers "about even" with the deputies, allowing slightly higher salaries for the officers.

Other features of the deputies' new agreement, according to Gully, include:

- full payment of uniform costs, whereas the county had previously provided \$120 annually for uniforms.

- guaranteed payment of at least four hours wages at time and a half for any call-back work during other than regularly scheduled working hours. Gully said this provision would cover court appearances required of deputies.

- payment of time and a half for holiday work, in addition to the regular holiday pay to be given all deputies whether or not they work.

The arbitration panel okaying the pact was Gully, Walter Sticksels, representing the county commission, and David Keefe, of Roseville, professional arbitrator.

Nuclear Foe Will Speak To Economic Club

Chicago Atty. Myron Cherry, one of the successful challengers of Consumers Power Co. three years ago, will speak at a meeting of the Economic Club of Southwestern Michigan Thursday, March 21.

Cherry's subject will be "The Licensing of Nuclear Power Plants — A Study in Charades." John Paul Taylor, club president, said the meeting will be at Ramada Inn, Benton township, starting with dinner at 6:45 p.m.

Cherry worked with the Sierra club and other intervening environmental groups to score what was called a major victory in getting Consumers Power Co. to install cooling towers at its Palisades Nuclear plant in Covert township.

In return, the environmental groups agreed to Atomic Energy Commission licensing of the plant to permit the start of testing.

The cooling towers cost about \$20 million. Consumers said there was no scientific evidence they were needed but agreed to the towers rather than have its \$200 million investment tied up in litigation for years.

Palisades got a license in 1973 to operate at full power, but the plant has been shutdown since last August for repairs to the steam generating system.

Taylor said in keeping with the Economic Club's policy of fairness in presenting both sides of a controversial issue, A.

H. Aymond, chairman of the board of Consumers power Co., will address the club April 25.

Cherry, 35, is a member of the Chicago law firm of Jenner and Block. Senior partner Albert Jenner is currently in the limelight as minority counsel for the House Judiciary committee, conducting an impeachment inquiry.

Cherry is a 1962 graduate of Northwestern University Law school.



ATTY. MYRON CHERRY
Took On Consumers

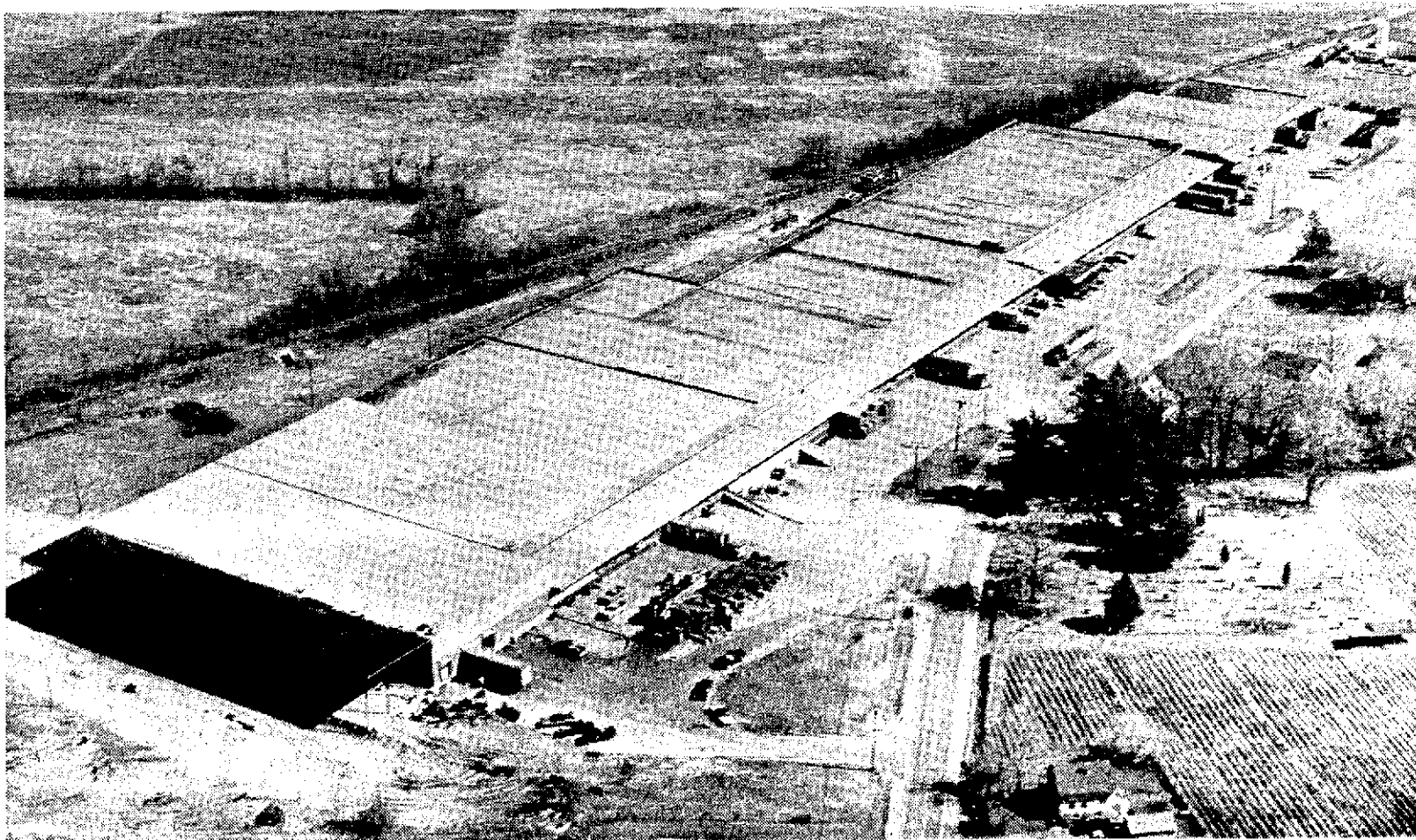
Thousands Expected For Radio Swap, Shop

Several thousand persons are expected to attend the eighth annual Swap and Shop to be staged by the Blossomland Amateur Radio association from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the St. Joseph high school auditorium.

James Keller, association vice president, said the sale and auction event for used, reconditioned and new electronic equipment is expected to draw visitors from across Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. He noted it has had wider advertising this year than in 1973 when an estimated 2,500 persons attended.

All types of parts and related electronic equipment for amateur and Citizens Band radio and stereo systems will be offered.

Advance admission tickets are available from Keller for \$1. At the door, the donation is \$1.50.



LONG ENOUGH: The dark-roofed addition (left) to Southern Michigan Cold Storage Co. plant on Pipestone road, Sodus township, will be the final addition to the nearly quarter-mile long structure,

according to President John Steimle. But that doesn't necessarily mean the end of expansion. "Anything more will be as a new building," he said. Latest addition, embracing 13,000 square feet

of dry warehousing space and targeted for May 1 completion, stretches building length to 1,280 feet—more than four football fields laid end to end. (Aerial photo by Adolph Hann).